

November 9, 2007  
Steven Greenebaum  
4920 190<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Lynnwood WA 98036

I cannot speak with specificity to the question of further consolidating media ownership in this country. I feel sure that others have been and will be able to speak to that. I'm a minister, not a policy wonk. My concern is more general, and more basic. I think of the kids in my congregation, and kids all over the country. What kind of country, and what kind of future are we handing to them? The issue, for me, is access to the news. It's a small thing, among so many larger things that concern us deeply. But it is a small thing that we can actually do something about.

I've heard this called a partisan issue. I reject that. This is a democracy issue. I'm sure I needn't remind any of you that democracy depends on an informed electorate. To participate in a democracy, people must have access to the issues at hand, what they mean, and who they affect. Since we won't necessarily agree on what the issues are, what they mean and who they affect ... for there to be an informed electorate, we need multiple sources for our news.

This is not rocket science. This is basic. Government 101. And yet, even without the further action you now contemplate, the FCC has already allowed an alarming consolidation of media in the United States. We need

LESS consolidation, not more. And to the idea that this is somehow a partisan issue, I would remind the Commission that it was the Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, who recognized the danger to democracy, to this country, of what were then known as Trusts. He took pride in being recognized as a “Trust Buster.”

Don’t make this partisan. Calling it that serves only to obscure what is really happening.

I ask you: can the financial power and well being of a few hugely rich mega-corporations be more important to this Commission than the well being of this country as a democratic republic? That’s the issue. That’s the issue and there’s no getting around it. And if you put the financial interests of a few elite ahead of the health of this democracy and the need to have an informed electorate, then shame on you. SHAME on you!

Explain to your children and your grandchildren your priorities: if you can. Our constitution hoped “to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” I ask you again, what kind of country will we handing over to our kids, and their kids?

It is said that my liberty to throw out my fist, stops at your nose. I suggest to you that the liberty of an elite few to control the media, stops, must stop, at the need for an informed electorate to have sufficient diversity in the sources of their news.

Thank you for your time and attention.